

CATS



The Official Journal of the Capital Area Timex/Sinclair Users Group

Presidential Ramblings

Mannie Quintero

New Years has come and gone as has the Presidential Inauguration as well as the first CATS meeting of the year. Our meeting was not quite as well attended as the inauguration - we had a grand total of six members present. I certainly hope it was because of the combination of DC's first snow (of any depth) and the fact that the Redskins were to play at 4PM that day which kept folks away. We did have one brave soul from the Baltimore area who made the trek. (See listing of members elsewhere in the N/L.)

Since then, I have been heavily engaged in trying to dominate Digital Precision's PC CONQUEROR GOLD SPECIAL EDITION and to get MS-DOS 5.0 installed on my QL. Luckily, while in New York over New Years, I had a concentrated dose of MS-DOS while helping my daughter install new BIOS chips, a 3.5 inch drive, and DOS 5.0 on the hard drive of her messy-DOS machine and I'm proud to announce that I have made PC clones out of both my Gold Card and Minerva machines. Also, I have installed a 101

key PC keyboard on one via a Falkenberg Kb adaptor. NOTE: the connector cable is too short to lead out of the QL as indicated in the installation directions and I had to cut a gap in the front of the case to lead it out there.

While installing Conqueror, I found a tip to publicize. Gold Cards made prior to September, 1992, have two capacitors interchanged on the board which can cause problems dealing with DD, HD, and EHD drives. Problems manifest themselves as "(regularly or intermittently) unjustified error messages relating to disk access (reading, writing, or formatting)." I got "not found" often when looking at a perfectly valid disk. Miracle will fix this, free of charge, if GC is returned to them. Mine's en route now. One could change them onesself, but it might be tricky as the GC is a 'four layer board'. I might note that Conqueror's documentation is, as is often the case, tough to follow and decipher. I might also note that without IBM COPY and XOVER, getting 360K, 40 track, discs onto my system would be an impossibility. I spent many hours in so doing.

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The next meeting of Cats will be held on: Feb.13,1993

11:00 AM Hardware Workshop

2:00 PM General Meeting

At: New Carrollton Public Library 7414 Riverdale Rd.(Rte.410)
New Carrollton, MD

CATS Meeting 9 Jan 1993
Minutes by Tim Swenson

Attendees were: Hank Dickson Joe Miller
Mannie Quintero Cliff Watson Tim Swenson

No reports except Corresponding.
Discussed what other groups might be
still active. Reviewed expenses for NL
and BBS. (Just curious).

Cliff Watson will give the next month's
presentation: moving programs from the
T/S 1000 to the T/S 2068. For March
Voice boxes on 2068 (through the
speaker and Zebra talker) and the QL
(via serial port and talker). April:
Mike Warmick (possible or may) video
device titles and editing. Plus video
on Anniversary meeting. Hank will talk
with him. Other possibles: Vernon Smith
with his Mac, Tom Bent and his Mac. Hank
suggests for July we bring Joe Zellers
(old soldiers home) to talk about the
old days on Sinclair. Need Nominating
committee (Barry W. again?)

(Send Joe Miller the small amplifier and
speaker.) E

Visit with Gary Ganger
by Tim Swenson

While house-hunting in Dayton, I thought
I would visit Gary Ganger, the leader
of the local Sinclair group. This group
is a Special Interest Group (SIG) of the
Dayton Microcomputer Association (DMA).
The Sinclair SIG is comprised of about
5-6 members, meeting at Gary's house on
the third Tuesday of each month.

Gary is hoping to expand the Sinclair
membership by getting the users of the
Sinclair MS-DOS compatible to join.
After Amstrad bought Sinclair, they
decided to use the popularity of the
Sinclair name to sell one of it's
MS-DOS compatibles.

He has a Sinclair Professional series
PC500SD (really an Amstrad with
Sinclair stamped on). Amstrad sold the
Sinclair Professional Series PC500SD. A
computer clearance house in Dayton sold
a number of them in the local area. Gary
bought one and has contacted a few of
the other owners. The PC500SD is a
floppy only system, but Gary had rigged
up a hard disk. The oddest thing about
the PC500SD is that the power supply is
in the monitor and not in the main PC
unit. If the monitor ever goes, the
whole computer goes.

Like myself, Gary is a computer
collector. He did not mention how many
he has, but his collection is more
extensive than mine. He will bring his
computer museum to the DMA ComputerFest
(late August). E

PRESIDENTIAL RAMBLINGS

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If, before now, I thought life was
complicated, I now have to try to
organize and keep straight, for MS-DOS,
13-3.5 and 37-5 1/4 inch disks and for
QDOS, 60-3.5, 47-5 1/4 disks and 46
microdrives plus some original disks and
MDVs. This is on top of 25-5 1/4 QUANTA
disks with 28 more to be gotten. If I
can ever figure out what I need to keep,
maybe Herb's or Duane's catalog program
can help me.

I see that Herb Schaaf has made the
latest QUANTA issue with his article on
random-dot stereograms. It pops up just
as well in QUANTA as it does at
meetings. Maybe a little easier as the
spacing between the L&R 'grams is
smaller and does not require as much
accommodation from the eyes of the
beholder. CU

An Editor's Word:
Mark Fisher

This issue represents the first of a new series edited by me. There is no way I can follow Tim Swenson's energetic enthusiasm, and I don't intend to try. This is the second time I have found myself as editor, and there are a lot of differences. In the meantime, I've acquired a house, ownership of one boat and crew membership on a second.

My use of computers has settled down, too: generally, either as a word processor or as a private library card-catalog covering the western world (thanks to Montgomery County's Public Access Catalog system ((301 217-3906)).

I'll be happy to collate and print any articles submitted, but if there aren't any, I'm not going to fabricate them.

I still believe Clive Sinclair's idea of a better way to use computers is valid - behind me as I type there is a whiz-bang 486 33MHz/ Laser printer setup my stepson just got, but my enthusiasm is easily contained.

The Sinclair Legacy is a diverse one, made up of equal parts from a variety of sources - Bob and Audry Curnutt's quiet dedication, Printer's Plus's entrepreneurialism (the owner started as a member of CATS), Tom Bent's engulfing technical absorption, Herb Schaff's always surprising productions and humor, etc. There is no way I can list all the people and ideas that have enriched our corner of the world.

I am willing to take this position in partial compensation for the contributions of those above, but my willingness to resume this position is limited. At this point, six months sounds like a tolerable commitment.

MTF

READ/WRITE?

by Mannie Quintero (I think... really guys, sign these things, OK? ...ED)

A couple of interesting bits of writing caught my eye recently as both dealt with viruses (viri).

The first is an excerpt, appearing in the February 1993 issue of DISCOVER magazine, from the forthcoming book "Approaching Zero" by Mungo and Clough, and is entitled "The Bulgarian Connection". It traces, to some degree, the evolution of computer viruses and how and why they started in Eastern Europe.

The second, somewhat more technical, but still good reading, is entitled "Fat-Eating Logic Bombs and the Vampire Worm", written by Rietman and Flynn. It appears in the February 1993 issue of ANALOG Science Fiction and Fact.

Read and learn a lot! Write a review?

Contributions to the Newsletter:
Mark Fisher

Contributions are welcomed in any form: Disk, (IBM 360 K or QL) hardcopy, or BBS files. A:XMODEM R yourfilename.here will set up the reception end of the BBS files system. It's a reliable and easy method to "beam" your contributions to the newsletters. Don't forget to sign your work, and leave a message about what and where you sent.

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS

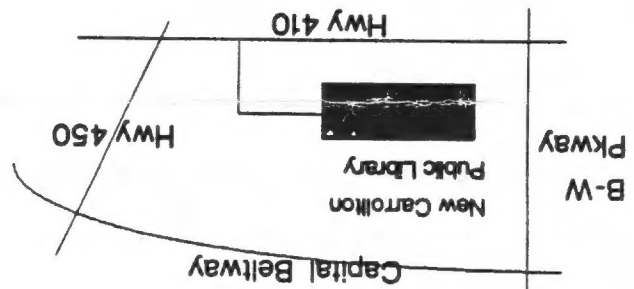
RECEIVE

IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER OF CATS, THIS IS THE ONLY ISSUE YOU WILL

At: New Carrollton Public Library 7414 Riverdale Road (Hwy 410), New Carrollton, MD

11:00 AM Hardware Workshop
2:00 PM General Meeting

The next meeting of CATS will be held on:



Takoma Park, MD 20913

P.O. Box 11017

CATS Newsletter

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The Capital Area Timex/Sinclair Users Group is a not-for-profit group devoted to serving the interests of those who own, use, or are interested in the Timex/Sinclair family of computers.

Executive Board

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Newsletter Editor

& Contact

Mark Fisher
(301) 589-7404
(301) 588-0579 BBS

Meetings

Monthly meetings are held from 11:00AM to 4:30 PM on the second Saturday of each month at the New Carrollton Public Library.

Newsletter

Memberships cost \$15 per year, are good for 12 months and include all privileges (access to libraries, group buys, etc.). A newsletter-only subscription is available for persons living outside the Washington Metro area and is \$12 per year.

Networks

Timex SIG on Compuserve: Wednesday night 10:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (GO CLUB)

CATS BBS: (301)588-0579, 8-N-1. 300/1200 baud. News and general information, 24 hours a day.